

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL, FRIDAY
MAY 21, 1976, "KEEPING THE HEAT ON IN AFRICA."

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS SUPPORTERS FEEL HE HAS
STRENGTHENED U.S. INFLUENCE WITH AFRICAN MODERATES ON HIS
RECENT TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT IT WOULD BE INCAUTIOUS
TO ASSUME THAT THE U.S. HAS YET GAINED ANY MEANINGFUL CON-
TROL OVER EVENTS IN THAT REGION. IN THE RHETORIC OF "UN-
RELENTING OPPOSITION" AND THE LIKE, IT IS NOT EASY TO OUTBID
THE RUSSIANS, AS EVENTS IN MOSCOW THIS WEEK AGAIN INDICATE.

3. AS PART OF A TOAST TO VISITING MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT
SAMORA MACHEL, SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNYY SAID THAT
"SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" IN AFRICA IS
"ONE OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE SOVIET UNION'S FOREIGN
POLICY." WHILE SUCH MOVEMENTS HAVE SCORED VICTORIES IN
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AFRICA, THE STRUGGLE IS NOT OVER, HE ADDED.

4. OBVIOUSLY NOT. THE NEWS FROM NORTHERN RHODESIA IS THAT MORE THAN 1,000 SOVIET-ARMED GUERRILLAS HAVE NOW INFILTRATED INTO THAT COUNTRY FROM BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE. THAT IS ESTIMATED BY THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE 300 MORE THAN SIX WEEKS AGO AND UP FROM 80 LAST CHRISTMAS.

5. MR. PODGORNYY TOOK PAINS TO DISABUSE ANYONE OF THE NOTION THAT DETENTE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES SERVES AS ANY INHIBITION TO SOVIET AFRICAN ADVENTURES. HE TOLD MR. MACHEL THAT "AT A TIME OF EASING TENSIONS NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARISE FOR SPEEDING UP NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION."

6. THAT THEME, WHICH IS A MORE POINTED VERSION OF THE POSITION TAKEN BY LEONID BREZHNEV AT THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS LAST MARCH, CASTS FURTHER DOUBT ON THE USEFULNESS OF U.S. ATTEMPTS TO PRESERVE DETENTE BY THAT OR ANY OTHER NAME. TO BE SURE, MR. PODGORNYY'S REMARKS MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED PARTLY TO REASSURE AN AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY WHO HAS A LOT OF PROBLEMS BACK HOME. MR. MACHEL MANAGED TO SEIZE CONTROL OF MOZAMBIQUE BUT HE IS SHOWING NO TALENT FOR RUNNING THE PLACE, WHICH IS RAPIDLY ON THE WAY TO BECOMING ANOTHER ECONOMIC BASKET CASE.

7. BUT THE VERY PRECARIOUSNESS OF MR. MACHEL'S SITUATION CREATES AN IMPERATIVE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO ENCOURAGE HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST RHODESIA AND PROVIDE AID FOR IT. FIGHTING A WAR TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM DOMESTIC MISMANAGEMENT IS NOT A NEW TACTIC IN GOVERNMENT.

8. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE U.S. HAS ONLY BEGUN TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT NEED NOT EXPECT MUCH RESPIRE FROM THE RUSSIANS WHILE IT TRIES. (END
TEXT) ROBINSON

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